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SUMMARY. — Military Events. — Public opinion in France. — Germany's appetite. — The sentiments of an Alsatian town. — The resumption of business. — The Germans in Belgium. — Bibliography.

Military Events (to the 20th of August 1915.)

The general situation does not change. In the West, the Allies are continuing to show very little activity until they have been able to complete their armament, and the Germans do not attack. On the Eastern side, the great Austro-German offensive is going on without resulting in that defeat of the Russians which the Germans are striving for.

On the Western front. — There have only been a small number of combats properly speaking : in Belgium, where the English, having attacked, have obtained a slight advantage; in Artois, where the French troops realized appreciable progress which they were not able to hold; in the Argonne, where the Germans have continued their attacks and where, after advancing slightly at one point, they have been held; in Alsace, in the region of Münster, where the German counter-attacks have been fruitless and where the French have gained a little ground in spite of all the German efforts. The activity of the artillery is becoming more intense along the whole of the front.

On the Italian front. — The Italians have continued their attacks and their bombardments.

The Austrian counter-attacks have failed, and at several points the Italians have seized difficult positions. The reinforcements brought up by the Austrians have up to the present prevented their adversaries from gaining a decisive

advantage; but the Italians have advanced on both sides of Gorizia and also to the North in the mountains.

On the Serbian front. — The Austro-Germans are bringing up troops in this direction; Belgrade has again been bombarded; the Serbians have successfully replied.

On the Russian front. — Attacking upon an immense front, from the gulf of Riga to the Dniester, the Austro-German forces have continued their efforts with a view to enveloping the Russian army, which is retreating methodically, carrying off or destroying everything. By means of energetic counter-attacks, on both wings, the Russians have so far succeeded in escaping from the circle, and they have fallen back to the rear. The Germans have thus advanced more than 80 kilometers to the east of Warsaw. On the North, the Russians have counter-attacked and repulsed the German forces which were advancing upon Riga and upon Dvinsk; but, thanks to their heavy artillery, the Germans have taken, first Kovno, then Novo-Georgievsk. Brest-Litovsk is threatened. Two first attempts of the German fleet to penetrate into the gulf of Riga have failed. The Austro-Germans are gaining ground rapidly, but without obtaining the essential result, which is to destroy the Russian army. The gigantic retreat begun four months ago, and carried out with surprising strength of resistance by the Russians under the most unequal conditions of armament, is still going on.

On the Turkish front. — In the Gallipoli peninsula, the Allies are effecting fresh disembarkations to the east of Kaba-Tépé, notably in the bay of Sulva.

The Russians are progressing in Turkish Armenia; they have repulsed the Turks who had returned in force, and have seized the important town of Van. The Turkish right wing has been completely beaten.

In Africa. — The Germans have suffered another defeat in the Cameroon.

Naval affairs. — The operations are still confined to submarine affairs. An auxiliary cruiser has been sunk in the North sea. Two Austrian submarines have been sunk in the Adriatic and a strong Austrian attack against the island of Pelagosa, which is in the hands of the Italians, has failed. An English submarine has sunk, in the sea of Marmora, one of the two old German iron clads bought by Turkey, and the Russian mastery of the Black Sea has thus

been strengthened. On the other hand, an English transport has been sunk in the *Ægean* sea, with more than a thousand troops. Bombardments have taken place on the coast of Asia-Minor.

The unlawful war made by the German submarines on the merchant vessels of the Allies is not very efficacious; a steamship, laden with passengers, going from England to America, has been sunk.

Public opinion in France.

The general Councils, which are the faithful expression of opinion in the departments, have just opened their customary summer session. They have been unanimous in asserting the unshakable resolution of the country. Here are a few extracts from the speeches delivered by the Presidents.

Charente-Inférieure. — In his speech M. Emile Combes, ex-president of the Council, recalled that all divergences of political opinion have disappeared from the midst of the departmental assembly. He stigmatized the "cunning of our enemies who, speculating upon the elevated tendencies of our nature, upon our ideal of peace, of reconciliation among the nations, silently prepared for war."

He also paid a tribute to our soldiers who are inflicting upon the enemy the most cruel disappointments, while they wait for the moment, which cannot be long in coming, for a victorious offensive.

"The peace which we want, and which we will impose, can only be a peace which will place the empires which have unchained this war in the absolute impossibility of unchaining another, and which will restore to France territories which were taken away from her by former violences."

Meuse. — M. Maginot, ex-under secretary of State, said: "I am sure to translate the unanimous sentiments of the general Council and of the populations which we represent by saying that we must carry on the struggle to the end, until we are in a position to impose on the enemy conditions which will ensure the protection of our frontiers in the future, which will indemnify us in the greatest mea-

sure possible for the losses which we have suffered, and which will place Prussian militarism in the impossibility henceforth of attacking the rights and liberty of other nations."

Saône-et-Loire. — M. Sarrien, ex-minister, said: "You will doubtless judge it useful to repeat to the government of national defence that it can count more than ever upon the help of our department of Saône-et-Loire, which has however already paid a large tribute for the war, but which is always ready for every sacrifice in order to safeguard the sacred soil of the country, our institutions and our liberties."

"We wish for peace, but we only want it when the enemy has been driven from our territory, and we desire that the signed peace shall ensure the security of the future and shall for a long time prevent the return of these bloody conflicts brought about by the ambition of a despot."

Tarn-et-Garonne. — M. de Selves, ex-minister, said: "I dare proclaim aloud that our unshakable firmness and our inflexible determination are stronger, more deeply rooted than ever in our souls. It is vain for our enemies to insinuate possibilities of peace. The war will be long; but we will know how to prepare ourselves in order to support it and to make it victorious with a firm and always confident heart."

Germany's appetite.

The document whose essential part we give below was not destined by its authors for the public. It is a confidential request addressed to the chancellor of the German empire by the most powerful agricultural and industrial associations of Germany, on the subject of the conditions of peace. We find expressed in it, without any veil, and without hypocrisy, the real desires and thoughts of Germany. It is no longer fine words calculated to conciliate for Germany the favour of impartial neutrals. The request defines straightforwardly the profits that Germany counts drawing from the war which she unchained at the moment judged by her to be the most favourable.

Two features are above all striking in this request. First, the *extraordinary extent* and the *greed* of the German desires. Germany must have, outside Europe, a colonial

empire which will give satisfaction to all her economic interests : it would be no small thing. In Europe vast annexations will enlarge the empire from the Duna to the Somme, and will ensure for it the industrial, commercial and political domination to which Germany aspires.

In the second place, *an absolute contempt for the rights of others* before the superior right which Germany has to seize what she has need of. Never has the right of the strongest been invoked with greater scorn for justice and for humanity. Belgium will lose her independence : why should she preserve it, since Germany wants her mines, her canals and her ports? The French of the Artois, of Picardy, of Flanders, of the Ardennes, of Lorraine, of the Vosges, will be dispossessed, and driven from their native land : what more natural, since Germany wants their mining beds, and wants to establish herself on the coast of the Atlantic? By virtue of the same principle, Germans will replace the Poles driven from their country. In the middle of the twentieth century, these European populations will be treated as no civilized power (except Germany) treats to-day the most backward tribes of its colonies. And all that will be accomplished in the name of the superior civilization, of the *kultur*, of Germany.

If Germany is victorious, the signatories are sure of being listened to. Already the national liberal party, as we will see further on, is beginning to demand openly what they have secretly been asking for. It is not the military party which will be of a different opinion, and it cannot be hoped that the great majority of socialists will rise against this claim. The modest protestations which enlightened Germans are expressing against them will certainly not be heard.

It may be left to the imagination what will become of the independence of Holland, of Switzerland and of the Scandinavian countries. Already before the war, M. von Jagow, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, expressed significant doubts to the Ambassador of France, on the possibility for the small states to maintain their independence side by side with the great states.

CONFIDENTIAL

The league of agriculturists,
The league of German peasants,
The directing Group of the christian associations of German peasants, at present, the group of Westphalian peasants,

The central Union of German industrialists,
The league of industrialists,
The Union of the middle classes of the Empire, addressed, on the
20th of May 1915, the enclosed request to the Chancellor of the Empire :

*To his Excellency, the Chancellor of the Empire,
Doctor von Bethmann-Hollweg, Berlin.*

Berlin, the 20th of May 1915.

Excellency,

With the whole of the German people, the German representatives of agriculture and of industry, of trade and of commerce are firmly resolved to continue to the end, and whatever may be the sacrifices, the life-and-death struggle which has been imposed on Germany, so that our country may emerge from this struggle with increased power *outside* Germany, with the guarantee of an enduring peace and, consequently, the assurance of being equally able to pursue its national, economic, intellectual and moral development *inside* Germany.

Even a military situation less favourable or less certain could not, it is true, change anything in our firm resolution, if we are not at any time to lose sight of the goal fixed outside and inside Germany by H. M. the Emperor himself. For this goal can only be reached by the obtaining of a peace which will give greater security to our frontiers of the West and of the East, which will enlarge the foundations of our maritime power, and which will allow our economic forces to be vigorously exerted without hindrances; briefly, a peace, which will ensure for us in the political, military, naval and economic domaine, the increase of power capable of guaranteeing the progress of our exterior forces.

A peace which would not have these results would soon make fresh struggles inevitable, with much less favourable chances of success for Germany. *So, no premature peace.* For, from such a peace, we cannot expect a sufficient reward for the victory.

Likewise *no undecisive peace*, no peace which does not draw full advantage, in the directions indicated, and in the political domaine, of the final victory which we hope for in the military domaine.

What particular claims — the military possibilities being granted — must be realised, according to the undersigned associations, in order to strengthen Germany from the

political, military and economic point of view, so that she may face all the possibilities of the future with confidence, may be found precisely stated in the request reproduced below, which, on the date of the 10th of March last, was addressed to Your Excellency, by the *League of Agriculturists*, the *League of German peasants*, the *central Union of German industrialists*, the *League of industrialists*, and the *Union of the middle classes of the Empire*, and to which have equally given their adhesion the *Christian Associations of German peasants* who have signed with us. Here is the text of this request :

The undersigned associations have been occupied with the question of knowing how might be realized the formula so often heard during the course of these last months, and according to which *the present war must be followed by a peace concluded with honour, answering to the sacrifices consented to and containing in itself the guarantee of its endurance.*

In replying to this question, it must never be forgotten that *our enemies declare unceasingly that Germany must be annihilated and wiped out from the list of great powers.* In view of such aspirations, we will find no protection in treaties which will be trampled under foot at the opportune moment; *our only guarantee consists in an economic and military enfeeblement of our adversaries such that, thanks to it, peace will be ensured for a determined period.*

Together with a colonial Empire which will fully satisfy the numerous economic interests of Germany, together with guarantees for the future of our trade and our fiscal system, and together with an indemnity both sufficient and of an appropriate kind, we regard the principal aim of the struggle which has been put upon us as consisting in the strengthening and improvement of the European basis of the German Empire.

WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH BELGIUM

Because it is necessary to ensure our credit at sea and our military and economic situation for the future vis-à-vis England, and because the territory of Belgium, which is of such great economic importance, is closely linked with our principal industrial territory, *Belgium must be placed under the legislation of the German Empire as regards monetary, financial and postal questions.* The Belgian railways and waterways must be closely linked up with our communications. By constituting a Walloon area and a

preponderant Flemish area, and by placing in German hands the economic enterprises and properties so important for the domination of the country, we shall organize the government and administration in such a way that the inhabitants will not be able to acquire any influence upon the political destinies of the German Empire.

WHAT MUST BE TAKEN FROM FRANCE

As regards France, and always bearing in mind our situation vis-à-vis the English, it is of vital interest for us, with a view to our future at sea, that we should hold the coastal region bordering on Belgium up to about the Somme. This will give us an outlet on the Atlantic Ocean.

The hinterland which must be acquired at the same time must be of such extent that, both economically and strategically, the ports at which the canals terminate can assume their full importance. It is necessary to annex the mine basins of Briey, but no further territorial conquests ought to be made in France except in consequence of considerations of military strategy. As regards this matter, it is very natural, after the experiences of this war, that we should not expose our frontiers to fresh invasions by leaving to our enemy the fortresses which threaten us, especially Verdun and Belfort, and the western spurs of the Vosges situated between these two fortresses.

By the conquest of the line of the Meuse and of the French coast, with the outlets of the canals, we should acquire, in addition to the iron districts of Briey already indicated, the coal areas in the Departements of the Nord and the Pas-de-Calais. These territorial increases — as is a matter of course after our experiences in Alsace-Lorraine — assume that the population of the annexed territories will not be able to obtain a political influence upon the destinies of the German Empire, *and that all the sources of economic power in these territories, including properties large and small, will pass into German hands. France will indemnify the proprietors and absorb them.*

WHAT MUST BE TAKEN FROM RUSSIA

As regard the East, the chief consideration is the following: the great increase of industrial power foreseen in the West must find in the East a counter-poise in the acquisition of an equal amount of agricultural land. The present economic structure of Germany has proved so favour-

able in the present war that the necessity for maintaining it for a determined period in the future may well be considered as the general conviction of our people.

It is necessary to strengthen the agrarian foundation of our economic system. We must make possible a German agrarian colonization on a large scale, and the repatriation upon German territory of German peasants living abroad, and especially in Russia. We must also largely augment the number of our nationals capable of bearing arms. All this demands *a considerable extension of the Eastern frontiers of our Empire and of Prussia by the annexation at least of certain parts of the Baltic Provinces and of the territories to the South of them*, without losing sight of the necessity for making possible the military defence of the Eastern frontier.

In order to reconstitute Eastern Prussia, it is absolutely necessary to protect the frontiers by including certain strips of territory. *East Prussia, Posen and Silesia must no longer remain our outer marches exposed as they are at present.*

As regards the political rights to be accorded to the inhabitants of the new territories and the guarantees to be secured in these territories for German economic influence, we refer to what we have said concerning France. The war indemnity paid by Russia must largely consist in territorial concessions.

THE REASONS FOR THE ANNEXATIONS

The demands which precede are, it goes without saying, conditional upon the possibility for the armies of realizing them. But in considering the result already reached, we are firmly confident that our army and its leaders will obtain a victory which will ensure the realization of these aims. It is not through a policy of conquest that we must strive to attain these ends, but because their realization alone will ensure an enduring peace, the peace which the whole of the German people expect after the great sacrifices which it has consented to; let us add that, according to us, the voluntary abandonment of the enemy territories, where so much German blood has been shed, where are the innumerable tombs of the very best from among us, would not agree with the sentiment of the country, nor with the idea which the nation holds of a peace concluded *with honour*.

The want of ports opening directly upon the English

Channel would smother our activity on the seas as in the past. An independent Belgium would continue to be the bridge head of England, her point of support against us. The line of natural fortifications of France, remaining in the hands of the French, would constitute a permanent menace against our frontier. As to Russia, if she emerged from the war without territorial losses, she would despise our power and our force, which might (however) prevent her from troubling our interests, whilst on the other hand if we failed to annex agricultural territories on our Eastern frontier, we would be restricting the possibility of increasing, by a sufficient growth of the population of Germany, her military force vis-à-vis Russia.

In order to complete this request we wish, however, expressly to point out that the political, military and economic ends which the German people must aim at in order to ensure its future, are in strict agreement with one another and cannot be separated. And first of all, it is evident that the realization of these great political aspirations depends on the strength and success of our armies.

But, on the other hand, it cannot be doubted, especially if we judge by the experience of this war, that, especially in the long run, our military success and, besides, the advantages that can be drawn from them, are in a great measure conditioned by the economic strength and capacity of our nation. If German agriculture had not been equal to the task of ensuring the alimentation of our people in spite of all the enemy's efforts, and if German industry, German inventive genius and German technical skill had not been equal to the task of enabling us to dispense with the services of the foreigner in the most varied domains, we would fatally succumb in the end in the struggle which has been imposed upon us, even if we had not already succumbed, in spite of the brilliant success of our victorious troops.

Such is the situation kept in view when we demand in our request, on the one hand the acquisition of territories of agricultural colonization, and, on the other hand, the annexation of the mining basin of Meurthe-et-Moselle, as well as the French coal basins of the departments of the Nord and of the Pas-de-Calais, as well as the Belgian basins.

The acquisition of territories sufficient for agricultural colonization is indispensable, not only to enlarge the agricultural basis of our national economy, and consequently,

in order to maintain the happy equilibrium of our entire economic situation, an equilibrium whose imperious necessity has been recognized in the course of the present war, but also in order to ensure the sources of our national popular vigour, which derive from a strong agriculture, in order to ensure in particular the growth of our population and to strengthen, by that very means, our military power.

Likewise, annexations like those of the mining and coal basins already mentioned encourage not only the extension of our industrial power, as might be thought, but they constitute military necessities.

The security of the German empire in a future war imperiously calls for all the layers of minerals, including the fortresses of Longwy and of Verdun, without which these layers could not be defended.

The possession of great quantities of coal and especially of coal rich in bitumen, which abounds in the basin of the North of France is, at least in as great a measure as iron-ore, decisive for the issue of the war.

Belgium and the North of France together produce more than 40 millions of tons.

To sum up, it may be said that the aims kept in view in order to ensure our economic existence in an enduring manner are also the aims which guarantee for us our military force and, therefore, our independence and our political power, without taking into consideration the fact that, by the extension of our possibilities of economic action, they increase and procure opportunities of work, and thus serve equally the interests of all the working classes.

The declaration of the national liberal party.

The *Frankfort Gazette* publishes a despatch from Berlin announcing that the central Bureau of the national liberal party held on Sunday, the 15th of August, a meeting in the course of which, after long discussions, the following resolution was unanimously adopted with the exception of two voices : the central Bureau, in accord with the resolutions of the directing Committee and of the regional Committee, adopted on the 16th of May, declares that *the result of the present war can only be a peace which, while extending our frontiers in the East, in the West and beyond the seas, will give political, military and economic security against further*

attacks, and which will reward the gigantic sacrifices which the German people has already made and is resolved to continue to make to a victorious end.

The central Bureau cordially and unanimously thanks M. Bassermann, its president, for his activity, which inspires full confidence in the whole of the party and which is consecrated to the achievement of military and national objects. The central Bureau will unanimously support any government resolved to pursue these objects with unshakable confidence.

Commenting upon this resolution of the national liberal party, the *Gazette of Cologne* says :

This resolution will be welcomed not only by the national liberals, but also by the majority of the German people, and even by the socialists.

That this program is that of the whole of the German government, and especially that of the kaiser and of the Chancellor of the Empire has been clearly demonstrated by the manifestoes of the one and of the other.

An attempt has been made to interpret the movement which has taken place in the interior of the national liberal party, as being the result of a want of confidence in the Chancellor of the Empire. This interpretation is completely erroneous. The resolution which the party has just voted is the welcome reply to the opinion of the enemy countries which, while disguising the real facts, declare that they can benevolently grant Germany peace against the cession of Alsace-Lorraine, and upon other humiliating conditions *such as the restitution of Belgium.*

The sentiments of an Alsatian town.

The German mayor of Colmar has had the following proclamation posted up :

On the occasion of the German victories on the Eastern front, I had invited all well-thinking inhabitants to decorate their houses with flags. It was a formal invitation made within the limits of my attributions.

I regret to state that it was not followed by any effect. Among the so called upper classes, the abstention assumed the character of a genuine manifestation. All my efforts to represent the population of Colmar as a loyal population

profoundly attached to Germany, thus fail in the most complete manner, and it is my duty to call the attention of the inhabitants to the rigorous consequences that such an attitude cannot fail to have for their town and for themselves.

The resumption of business.

Silk. — We reproduce from the *Temps*, for the 8th and 15th of August, the following information concerning the silk market :

Lyons, 7th of August 1915.

It is beyond all doubt that the question of the war is intimately bound up with the commercial question, and in the circumstances we must rejoice at the rising progress of business, for it is a true sign that, as the "poilus" say, "we are getting on". Confidence in a sure future has asserted itself, and the satisfactory situation of the market of raw materials is becoming apparent. The demands, always numerous and increasing, bear testimony not only to urgent needs, but also to confidence in the immediate future. As a matter of fact, during the last week which has just past repeated transactions have taken place, which are even concerned with distant deliveries.

Activity is shown in the manufacture of silk stuff, and the figure of the exports is increasing every month. Manufacturers find an interesting flow into the United States of America : *the exports for this country for the first six months of this year amount to 49.900.000 francs as against 26.300.000 francs in 1914.*

Lyons, 14th of August.

The market of raw material is quite satisfactory; business is keeping at a good level, without sudden jerks; prices show an excellent standing in all departments, with a wise but sustained tendency. It is the consumption which alone continues to meet the expenses of the business transacted; the demand is shared among all the productions, sometimes keeping its preferences for raw silk for weaving; the difficulty of importation for many of the productions facilitates the liquidation of the merchandise which becomes rarer. All the markets of production keep very firm and

continue to be nourished by a steady current of daily demands.

The cloth market improves from day to day or rather is becoming larger, and looms reduced to silence for many long months are again in full work. The studying of articles previously produced by our enemies is going on, and the trials made with the fresh connexion are quite encouraging.

The vine crop of Champagne.—The vine-growers of Champagne have succeeded, in their manner, in the organization of a victory: never have their celebrated hill-sides given greater harvest promises. In the 12,000 hectares of the admirable vineyard which stretches as far as the German lines, a gain of at least one third on last year is foreseen. The grape-gathering of 1915 is going to realize another victory of the Marne.

The Germans in Belgium.

FORCED HIRING FOR MILITARY WORKS

The 18th Report of the "*Commission of inquiry upon the violation of the rules of the law of nations, of the laws and customs of war,*" addressed to M. Carton de Wiart, Belgian Minister of Justice, has just been published. It deals with the forced hiring of the inhabitants for industrial work. By this proceeding the Germans infringe art. 52 of the rule upon the laws and customs of war on land, added to the 4th Hague Convention, which forbids the occupant to "claim from the communes or from the inhabitants of the territory occupied requisitions in kind and services involving for the populations the necessity of taking part in the operations of the war against their country."

The main effort of the Germans is brought to bear upon railway workers, whose cooperation would allow of the liberation of the value of an army corps for other services. But these workmen, having realized the nature of the work asked of them, have categorically refused for two months, in spite of their material distress and of most tempting offers in salary, to lend their aid to the German authorities. They prefer to support the most odious persecution.

As an example, this is what took place at Luttre. We quote, word for word, the Belgian official report: "At the

end of April, the German authorities, first of all, convoked about thirty workmen of the central work-shop and of the goods-shed of Luttre, and urged them to resume their fonctions while promising them high salaries. Ordinary workmen were offered 5, 6, 7 marks, engineers as much as 20 marks a day. The workmen energetically refused, the Germans caused them to be shut up in wagons, declaring that they would not be let out until they would consent to work. Useless trouble. After several days, they were informed that they were going to be sent to Germany and that they would there be forced to work without remuneration. At the same time, their families were warned in the hope that they would intervene. It was of no avail, and on the following day, when the train started, the prisoner-workmen and the population, crowded around the approaches of the station, cried with all their might : " Long live Belgium ! " The train did not go farther than Namur, and the workmen were liberated.

" A few days later, a fresh attempt was made. The Germans had about a hundred workmen brought by force into the refectory of the work-shop, and a German officer asked them to proceed to work. Seeing their general silence, he threatened to send them to Germany; he added : " You need have no fear for the future; the kommandantur will give you a document certifying that you only took up work after being forced; let those who accept make two steps forward. All the workmen made a step backward crying : " Long live Belgium ! Long live our soldiers ! "

" Consequent upon these facts, M. Kessler, director of the central work-shop of Luttre, was arrested at Brussels on the 10th of May. Transported to the prison of Charleroi, where he was made to sleep on straw, he was conducted under escort, on Wednesday 11th to the work-shop of Luttre, where a large number of workmen had likewise been brought. In the meantime a written declaration had been distributed among them threatening them with detention in Germany if they still refused to work.

" After these incidents, M. Kessler was kept at the prison of Charleroi. An accountant, M. Ghislain, and a clerk, M. Menin, were also detained there. One hundred and ninety workmen were sent to Germany, about sixty others were arrested on the 15th of June. " Similar incidents took place at Malines and at Sweveghem-lez-Courtrai, where there is an important wire mill.

" It is not a question, in these three cases, says the

report, of local errors on the part of the German authorities. It is a question of a system in which the general government, and the highest German military personalities, participate, who are perfectly aware of the Hague Stipulations and who do not hesitate to infringe them openly. This cynicism is glaring in the proclamation which was placarded at Ghent on the 10th of June 1915, and of which we have received a copy.

NOTICE

By order of his Excellency, the Inspector of military stations, I bring to the notice of the communes what follows :

“ The attitude of some factories who, under pretext of patriotism and relying on the Hague Convention, have refused to work for the German army, proves that, among the population, there are certain tendencies which have for their aim the raising of difficulties in the way of the administration of the German army.

“ In this connexion, I bring to the notice of the public that, I will repress, by all the means at my disposal, all such practices, which can only interfere with the good understanding existing up till now between the administration of the German army and the population.

“ I make the communal authorities responsible in the first place for the increase of such tendencies, and I call attention to the fact that the population itself will be to blame if the liberties accorded in the most generous manner up to the present time are taken away from it and are replaced by restrictive measures rendered necessary by its own fault.”

Lieutenant-general

Graf VON WESTARP.

Ghent, the 10th of June 1915.

Commandant of Military Stations.

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